

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 02033 112141Z
ACTION OES-07

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1061
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2033

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, CS
SUBJECT: VISIT OF IATTC OFFICIAL JAMES JOSEPH

1. AT REQUEST OF GOCR, INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS DR. JAMES JOSEPH CONSULTED WITH PRESIDENT RODRIGO CARAZO AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR ECHEVERRIA ON EVENING OF MAY 10 FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF RE IATTC AND TUNA ISSUE. DR. JOSEPH HAS INFORMED US THAT MEETING WAS OF AN INFORMATIVE NATURE IN WHICH HE ANSWERED AN EXTENSIVE SERIES OF QUESTIONS POSED BY CARAZO AND ECHEVERRIA. MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE, BUT ECHEVERRIA AT TIMES DISPLAYED STRONG NEGATIVE FEELINGS CONCERNING U.S. TUNA INDUSTRY OPERATIONS OFF COSTA RICA'S SHORE.

2. PRIOR TO MEETING WITH PERSIDENT, JOSEPH MET WITH AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS. HE POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF HIS PRIMARY OBJECTIVES WAS TO EMPHASIZE CONSEQUENCES OF GOCR DENUNCIATION OF IATTC. HE INDICATED HE WOULD POINT OUT THAT WITHOUT CONSERVATION REGIME TUNA RESOURCE OFF COSTA RICAN AND PACIFIC LITTORAL WOULD BE DEPLETED BY OVERFISHING. HE STATED ALSO THAT HE WOULD POINT OUT TO CARAZO THAT IATTC OBLIGATIONS (WHICH ARE STRICTLY RELATED TO CONSERVATION PROGRAM)
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ARE NOT INCOMPATIBLE WITH COSTA RICAN DOMESTIC LAW ESTABLISHING LICENSING AND PERMIT FEES, AND PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS. IN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO PRESENT U.S.-COSTA RICAN QUANDARY, HE INDICATED THAT REVISION OF IATTC CONVENTION OR NEW TREATY GOVERNING TUNA FISHING WOULD TAKE ABOUT THREE OR FOUR YEARS TO NEGOTIATE AND RATIFY. AN ALTERNATIVE MECHANISM WHICH COULD BE PUT

INTO EFFECT FOR NEXT YEAR, IN HIS OPINION, WAS A PRO-
TOCOL TO THE CONVENTION WHICH MIGHT ACCOMMODATE COSTA
RICAN AS WELL AS U.S. INTERESTS. IN THIS CONTEXT,
AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT GOCR HAS EXAGGERATED OPINION
OF TUNA CAUGHT IN COSTA RICAN 200 MILE ZONE AND SUG-
GESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE WELL TO CORRECT SUCH MISAPPREHEN-
SIONS. JOSEPH INDICATED THAT HE WOULD POINT OUT THAT
TUNA CAUGHT IN COSTA RICAN 200 MILE ZONE AVERAGED ABOUT
16,000 TONS PER YEAR OR SOME EIGHT PERCENT OF TUNA
CAPTURED IN CYRA.

3. DR. JOSEPH, WHO IS RETURNING TO SAN DIEGO MAY 11,
INFORMED US THAT HE WOULD BE CONVERSING WITH DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN NEGROPONTE UPON HIS RETURN
TO THE U.S.
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Message Attributes

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